SERVICES PROVIDED TO DISABLED PERSONS

BY

NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

CURRENT PROGRAMS FOR THE DISABLED

Attorney General

- interpreter services provided for the deaf in court.

Civil Service Commission

1. Ongoing Staffing Program

   - recruits and refers qualified disabled applicants to competitions for Civil Service positions
   - maintains inventory of disabled applicants
   - provides employment counselling

2. Training and Employment Initiatives Program
   (announced 16 April 1987)

   - will provide career internship for 20 to 30 disabled persons in Nova Scotia Civil Service
   - budget: $57,800

Culture, Recreation and Fitness

1. Sport and Community Services

   - provides grants to disabled persons' sport organizations
   - through Elite Athlete program provides grants to enable disabled athletes to attend sporting events
   - funds training of coaches and officials for sports for the disabled

2. Cultural Affairs

   - assistance to community performing arts activities has included grants to disabled groups

3. Public Archives of Nova Scotia

   - accessible to the disabled

Development

1. Employment Opportunities for the Disabled Program

   - subsidizes wages of disabled persons for up to 25 weeks
   - has subsidized 98 people since program started in 1981-82
   - funding doubled in 1987-88 to $100,000; 30 jobs can be funded

2. Disabled Entrepreneurs Assistance Program

- provides assistance to help disabled persons establish or expand their own small businesses
- grants to a maximum of $5,000 providing capital costs of up to 50% of total project cost or working capital of up to 75% of total project cost
- 28 disabled entrepreneurs assisted since program started in 1985, in every part of the Province
- estimate for 1987-88: $50,000

Education

1. Special Education Grant to School Boards

- provides $30,647,000 to school boards for provision of special education facilities for 2,346 pupils in special education classes and an estimated 17,000 pupils in ordinary classes

2. Curriculum Development - Special Programs

- develops and administers programs or courses in Special Education and all alternative programs

3. School Accessibility

- departmental policy ensures that all new school buildings are accessible to the disabled
- grants are provided to permit remodelling of existing facilities to ensure access to the disabled (1986-87: $155,000)

4. Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority Grant

- provision for payment of Nova Scotia's share of costs for students attending Special Education institutions, e.g., Atlantic Technical Vocational Centre in Amherst and Sir Frederick Fraser School for the Blind in Halifax
- 1987-88 budget: $8,188,000

5. Discretionary Grants

- Atlantic Conference on Learning Disabilities: $3,000
- Prince and Princess of Wales Scholarship for the Disabled: $4,500

Health

1. Community Health Services

- provides hearing and vision services for children entering school
- (as available) provides interpreters for deaf participants in pre-natal classes

2. Institutional Services

- fund Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Clinic: $2,900,000
- fund rehabilitation portion of Northside - Harbour View Hospital, about $2,000,000
- fund N.S. Rehabilitation Centre: $6,230,000
- approve TDD units in large hospitals
- provide interpreter services to deaf persons when communication with hospital physicians is essential

Health Services Insurance Commission

Within program guidelines, insured services include:

- arm and leg prostheses
- ocular prostheses
- ostomy supplies
- drug programs for persons requiring growth hormone or suffering from cystic fibrosis
- dental and orthodontic reconstruction for persons with cleft palate
- free dental care for persons under 21 at Sir Frederick Fraser School
- total anaesthesia for severely mentally retarded persons requiring dental care

Housing

1. Access-a-Home Program

- financial assistance to individuals confined to a wheelchair who wish to modify their home to make it more accessible
- grants of $750 to $1,350 (according to income) to help cover structural modifications
- 1987-88 budget: $85,000

2. Paraplegic Units in Public Housing

- share costs of construction of public housing units fitted to permit comfortable and convenient habitation by paraplegics (some 400-500 units in the Province)
- subsidize the rents of the above units

3. Special Non-Profit Projects

- disabled groups are eligible to make proposals for special non-profit housing projects

Human Rights Commission

- administers the Human Rights Act which prohibits discrimination against any individual or class of individuals because of race, religion, creed, colour, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, or physical or

mental disability in the following areas:

- employment
- accommodation
- services and facilities
- housing occupancy
- sale of property
- membership in employee organizations or professional, business or trade associations
- membership in volunteer organizations performing a public service

It also prohibits discrimination due to source of income (including disability allowance) in the area of rental housing.

- promotes employment opportunities for the physically handicapped
- promotes interests of the disabled in the private and public sector
- develops and implements programs of public information and education in human rights

Labour

- any legislation administered by the Department of Labour is applied uniformly to all Nova Scotians

Lands and Forests

1. Parks and Recreation

- new construction and remodelling of park facilities to make them accessible to the disabled
- provision of special fishing facility for disabled at Lewis Lake Provincial Park (received national award)
- average cost of above activities: $40,000 p.a.

2. Wildlife Management

- proposed legislation will permit handicapped to hunt from their cars

Municipal Affairs

1. Municipal Operating Grants

- $592,700 provided in 1987-88 for subsidizing municipal transit for the disabled

2. Provincial Building Code

- requires all new public buildings to be accessible to the disabled
- training programs for Building Inspectors include special training in awareness of problems of the disabled

Social Services

- see separate briefing document

Transportation

1. Identification Program for the Disabled

   - provides distinctive licence plates for disabled who own and drive cars
   - provides permits to disabled who do not drive, to display in car transporting them, so the car can use reserved parking spaces
   - reserved parking for the disabled enforced Province-wide, in public and private lots
   - program includes physically disabled, the blind, sufferers from heart and lung ailments
   - program introduced in 1980, revised in 1986 after consultation with disabled organizations
   - Nova Scotia was first province to introduce distinctive licence plates and first province to enforce reserved parking for disabled Province-wide

2. Accessibility

   - Motor Vehicle Registry now accessible to the disabled

Vocational and Technical Training

1. Disabled Persons Training

   - provides training for disabled persons at the vocational and university levels
   - provides training allowances for the disabled for 2 years (technical education) or 4 years (university)
   - provides training allowances for training in industry
   - cost-shares training with employers
   - 474 disabled benefited from programs in 1986-87
   - 1987-88 budget: $1,200,000

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES ON PROGRAMS FOR THE DISABLED, 1987-88

Attorney General	n/a
Civil Service Commission	$ 57,800 +
Culture, Recreation and Fitness	n/a
Development	150,000
Education	38,997,500 +
Health	11,130,000 +
Housing	85,000
Human Rights Commission	n/a
Labour	n/a
Lands and Forests	40,000
Municipal Affairs	592,500 +
Social Services	138,021,700
Transportation	n/a
Vocational and Technical Training	1,200,000
TOTAL	$190,274,500 +